

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RSJ07816WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/04237	International filing date (day/month/year) 30/09/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 30/09/2002
Applicant OXFORD INSTRUMENTS PLC		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT 03/04237

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01R33/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 144 171 A (OXFORD MAGNET TECHNOLOGY LIMITED) 12 June 1985 (1985-06-12) page 3, line 12 -page 4, line 20 page 8, line 5 -page 15, line 23 figures 1-3	1,3,4,6, 7,9,10
A	WO 98 43103 A (BRITISH TECHNOLOGY GROUP LIMITED) 1 October 1998 (1998-10-01) page 2, line 13 -page 8, line 25 figures 1,2	1-4,6-10
A	GB 2 321 312 A (OXFORD INSTRUMENTS) 22 July 1998 (1998-07-22) page 2, line 11 -page 8, line 2 figures 2,37,10	1,5,7,10
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 February 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/03/2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT 03/04237

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 187 691 A (OXFORD MAGNET TECHNOLOGY LIMITED) 16 July 1986 (1986-07-16) page 1, line 22 -page 8, line 5 figures 1-5 -----	1,3,4,6, 7,9,10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT 03/04237

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0144171	A	12-06-1985	AT 50082 T	15-02-1990
			DE 3481247 D1	08-03-1990
			EP 0144171 A1	12-06-1985
			EP 0251342 A2	07-01-1988
			JP 1715135 C	27-11-1992
			JP 2019430 B	01-05-1990
			JP 60123756 A	02-07-1985
			JP 5064634 A	19-03-1993
			US RE36782 E	18-07-2000
			US 4587504 A	06-05-1986
WO 9843103	A	01-10-1998	WO 9843103 A1	01-10-1998
GB 2321312	A	22-07-1998	NONE	
EP 0187691	A	16-07-1986	DE 3675023 D1	29-11-1990
			EP 0187691 A2	16-07-1986
			JP 1900323 C	27-01-1995
			JP 6009172 B	02-02-1994
			JP 61168904 A	30-07-1986
			US 4689591 A	25-08-1987